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이서혁

1. U.S INDOPACOM / Sept 8, 2021

<https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/2768060/7th-fleet-conducts-freedom-of-navigation-operation/>

**7th Fleet Conducts Freedom of Navigation Operation**

U.S. 7th Fleet Public Affairs

# SOUTH CHINA SEA -- USS Benfold (DDG 65) asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the Spratly Islands, consistent with international law. This freedom of navigation operation ("FONOP") upheld the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea. USS Benfold demonstrated that Mischief Reef, a low-tide elevation in its natural state, is not entitled to a territorial sea under international law.

# The PRC's statement about this mission is false. USS Benfold conducted this FONOP in accordance with international law and then continued on to conduct normal operations in international waters. The operation reflects our commitment to uphold freedom of navigation and lawful uses of the sea as a principle.

# The United States will continue to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows, as USS Benfold did here. Nothing PRC says otherwise will deter us.

# The PLA(N)'s statement is the latest in a long string of PRC actions to misrepresent lawful U.S. maritime operations and assert its excessive and illegitimate maritime claims at the expense of its Southeast Asian neighbors in the South China Sea. The PRC's behavior stands in contrast to the United States' adherence to international law and our vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region. All nations, large and small, should be secure in their sovereignty, free from coercion, and able to pursue economic growth consistent with accepted international rules and norms.

# On Sept. 8, USS Benfold (DDG 65) asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the Spratly Islands, consistent with international law. This freedom of navigation operation ("FONOP") upheld the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea. USS Benfold demonstrated that Mischief Reef, a low-tide elevation in its natural state, is not entitled to a territorial sea under international law.

# The United States engaged in “normal operations” within 12 nautical miles of Mischief Reef. Under international law as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention, features like Mischief Reef that are submerged at high tide in their naturally formed state are not entitled to a territorial sea.

# The land reclamation efforts, installations, and structures built on Mischief Reef do not change this characterization under international law. By engaging in normal operations within 12 nautical miles of Mischief Reef, the United States demonstrated that vessels may lawfully exercise high-seas freedoms in those areas.

# U.S. forces routinely conduct freedom of navigation assertions throughout the world. All of our operations are designed to be conducted in accordance with international law and demonstrate that the United States will fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows—regardless of the location of excessive maritime claims and regardless of current events.

# The United States upholds freedom of navigation as a principle. The Freedom of Navigation Program’s missions are peaceful and conducted without bias for or against any particular country. These missions are rule-of-law based and demonstrate our commitment to upholding the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea and airspace guaranteed to all nations.

# Freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea are a part of daily operations of U.S. military forces throughout the region.

2.U.S INDOPACOM / Sept 13, 2021

<https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/2773100/austin-says-philippines-is-vital-ally-with-shared-goals/>

**Austin Says Philippines Is Vital Ally With Shared Goals**

# By DAVID VERGUN DOD NEWS

# WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III hosted Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana today at the Pentagon.

# "The Philippines is a vital treaty ally. Our countries face a range of 21st century challenges, and cooperation is key to the security, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific," Austin said.

# The secretary mentioned that the two nations recently celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty, which was signed Aug. 30, 1951. That treaty, he said, "remains the bedrock of our alliance."

# Austin said he was pleased Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte in July retracted the letter that would have terminated the visiting forces agreement.

# The agreement allows the DOD to conduct over 300 bilateral engagements a year with the armed forces of the Philippines. These range from expert exchanges to ship visits to component exercises and major joint/combined training exercises.

# The secretary said he's looking forward to discussions on several priority areas, including maritime cooperation, modernizing the armed forces of the Philippines and increasing interoperability, information sharing and investments.

# America is committed to a sovereign and secure Philippines and to building an even stronger alliance based on our foundation of common interest and common values. And I look forward to discussing ways that we can deepen our partnership," Austin said.

# Lorenzana said the two nations have shared goals in the Indo-Pacific region that include a stable and secure environment.

# "Regional instability necessitates a network of effective alliances and defense partnerships," he said.

# The current modernization of the armed forces of the Philippines has been one of the main areas of alliance cooperation with the United States, he said.

# "I'm optimistic that today's discussion will continue to build on the friendship, partnership and alliance between our two countries, which is founded on our shared system, history and cooperation," Lorenzana said.

3. U.S INDOPACOM / Sept 15, 2021

<https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/2775893/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-lloyd-j-austin-iiis-meeting-with-philippine-sec/>

# Readout of Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III's Meeting With Philippine Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana

DoD Release

# WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III met with Philippines Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana at the Pentagon today to commemorate the 70th anniversary year of the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty and discuss ways to deepen this vital alliance.

# In recognition of this important anniversary, the Secretaries affirmed the enduring nature of the U.S.-Philippines alliance, as well as their shared commitment to building an even stronger foundation for future alliance cooperation. Secretary Austin reiterated that the U.S. commitment to Philippine security is ironclad, and that U.S. treaty commitments extend to Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft in the South China Sea. He expressed his appreciation for the Philippine decision to restore the U.S.-Philippines Visiting Forces Agreement, which signals a commitment by both sides to enhance the scale and scope of alliance cooperation. The Secretaries also discussed the importance of increased military and security cooperation to support Philippine defense modernization efforts and build alliance interoperability.

# The Secretaries agreed to undertake a number of new initiatives that will ensure the bilateral alliance is postured to address new and emerging challenges. These include:

# Developing a joint vision statement on shared priorities for the next phase of our alliance cooperation;

# Concluding a bilateral maritime framework that advances military activities and cooperation in the maritime space;

# Resuming infrastructure improvement projects at Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement agreed locations in the Philippines; and

# Re-convening the Bilateral Strategic Dialogue later this year.

# The Secretaries closed the meeting by reiterating their commitment to supporting the security, stability, and prosperity of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and to building an even more capable alliance that is based on a shared foundation of common interests and values.

4. U.S INDOPACOM / Sept 16, 2021

<https://www.pacom.mil/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/2777718/long-term-us-australian-relationship-will-ensure-free-open-indo-pacific-region/>

# Long-Term U.S., Australian Relationship Will Ensure Free, Open Indo-Pacific Region

# By C. Todd Lopez DOD NEWS

# WASHINGTON -- Despite continued Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific region, the long-standing relationship between the United States and Australia — and the strong partnership between their militaries — is expected to enhance stability, security and freedom in the region not just for Australia but for all nations with an interest in the Pacific.

# Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III met this morning with the Australian Minister for Defence Peter Dutton, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said during a briefing today.

# "We're proud to stand alongside our Australian allies to strengthen deterrence and defend our shared values and our shared interests in the Indo-Pacific region," Kirby said. "The U.S./Australia relationship is what we're proud to call 'the unbreakable alliance.' Our increasing convergence and alignment on the most important strategic issues attest to the enduring value of this partnership."

# Kirby said the two nations are cooperating on things like force posture, strategic capabilities, regional engagement and military operations.

# "Ultimately, we're cooperating on all that strengthens our ability to deter threats to a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said.

# When it comes to threats posed by China, such as reneging on promises of autonomy guaranteed in Hong Kong under a 1997 agreement with the British government, or its unlawful claim to the entire South China Sea, which interferes with the wellbeing and prosperity other nations in the region, Kirby said it's one of the main focus areas of the U.S. and Australian partnership.

# "I think without question ... the kinds of aggressive activities that we're seeing out of China in the Indo-Pacific region, [are] causing all of us, the international community, not just the United States, to make sure that we're focused appropriately on that behavior," Kirby said.

# During remarks earlier this morning, Dutton said the security situation in the Indo-Pacific region is "deteriorating" and that only with continued partnerships, such as with "Five Eyes" — which include the U.S., Australia, the U.K., New Zealand and Canada — can security be achieved.

# "We certainly share the concerns that the minister has ... about the aggressive behavior, the coercive and intimidating activities that the Chinese are making throughout the region — not just militarily but diplomatically and economically as well," Kirby said. "We're going to stay laser-focused on that. Our relationship with Australia ... is a key part of our ability to continue to maintain that focus and to make sure that we and our allies and partners are properly postured to be able to push back appropriately and to help ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific."